



News Release

WISCONSIN ARMY AND AIR NATIONAL GUARD

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October 22, 2004

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Challenge Academy presentations scheduled in Rock County

Representatives of the Wisconsin National Guard Challenge Academy will explain the institution's mission and methods in presentations at Beloit Memorial High School next Tuesday, Oct. 26.

The Challenge Academy offers at-risk youths the opportunity to change the direction of their lives. The program is for male and female applicants between 16 years, 9 months and 18 years old, who have dropped out of high school or through truancy have fallen more than one year behind in credits. It consists of 22 weeks at Fort McCoy in a highly structured environment, followed by one year in the cadet's home community working with a local mentor nominated by the cadet.

Each cadet participates in the academy's eight core components: academic instruction leading to Wisconsin's High School Equivalency Degree (HSED); job skills training; physical fitness; health, hygiene and nutrition; leading and following; life-coping skills; responsible citizenship; and community service.

The informational presentation in Beloit is for prospective applicants, their parents, area high school guidance counselors or directors of pupil services/attendance, area Health and Social Services personnel, and juvenile justice officers and workers.

It will be held on Tuesday at Beloit Memorial High School at 10:00 a.m.

The academy's next class begins Jan. 14, 2005. Applicants must not be on parole or probation for other than juvenile-status offenses, awaiting sentencing, under indictment, or charged with or convicted of a felony. They must be drug-free when they enter the program. Cadets attend voluntarily; the academy is not open to placement by court order.

For further information on the presentations, contact Jeanie Schoenenberg, guidance counselor, at Beloit Memorial High School, (608) 361-3021.

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